

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE BILL NO. 285

BY SENATORS NEVERS, APPEL, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS AND LONG

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

POSTSECONDARY ED. Provides for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credit between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions.  
(gov sig)

AN ACT

To enact Chapter 25-A of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:3161 through 3169, relative to educational institutions and programs; to provide for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credit between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions; to provide for the creation of a statewide articulation and transfer council and its membership, powers, and duties; to provide for a statewide articulation agreement; to provide for a common core curriculum; to provide relative to the length of degree programs; to provide for the transfer of specified courses and associate degrees; to provide relative to admission of transfer students to four-year colleges and universities; to provide for a statewide course numbering system; to provide relative to course levels and designations; to provide relative to accreditation of educational institutions; to provide for voluntary participation of certain independent colleges and universities; to provide relative to a comprehensive student information system; to provide for implementation timelines; to provide for reporting requirements; to provide for program rules; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 25-A of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:3161 through 3169, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 25-A. ARTICULATION AND TRANSFER**

**§3161. Articulation and transfer of credit; secondary and postsecondary institutions**

**The postsecondary education management boards, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and city, parish, and other local school boards shall jointly develop and implement articulation and transfer programs and agreements that facilitate and maximize the seamless transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions and that make the most efficient use of faculty, equipment, and facilities. Regionally accredited independent colleges and universities that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities are encouraged to participate with public educational institutions in developing programs and agreements to expedite the transfer of students and credits between secondary and postsecondary educational institutions.**

**§3162. Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council; creation; purpose; membership; duties and responsibilities**

**A. The commissioner of higher education, in consultation with the postsecondary education management boards and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall establish a Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council, hereinafter referred to as the council, that shall report to the commissioner of higher education. All council recommendations and decisions shall be submitted to the commissioner of higher education for presentation to the Board of Regents for approval.**

**B. The council shall consist of members representing each four-year college and university system, the community and technical college system, public elementary and secondary education, and nonpublic education, provided any eligible nonpublic postsecondary educational institution elects to**

1 participate. Council membership shall provide for equitable representation of  
2 all educational institutions and levels. The commissioner of higher education  
3 shall appoint a chair from among the membership.

4 C. The council shall, with appropriate faculty consultation:

5 (1) Coordinate, oversee, and monitor the seamless articulation and  
6 transfer of credit between and among secondary schools, technical colleges,  
7 community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities.

8 (2) Monitor the development of interinstitutional agreements between  
9 and among public schools, technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year  
10 colleges and universities to facilitate interaction, articulation, acceleration, and  
11 the efficient use of faculty, equipment, and facilities.

12 (3) Develop a statewide articulation and transfer agreement to govern  
13 the transfer of credits between and among educational institutions at all levels.

14 (4) Oversee the development of a statewide core curriculum for lower-  
15 division course work that will be fully accepted in its entirety and creditable to  
16 the baccalaureate degree by all four-year colleges and universities. Such  
17 curriculum shall be comprised of specified general education courses and  
18 common degree program prerequisites.

19 (5) Oversee the development, implementation, and maintenance of a  
20 statewide course numbering system.

21 (6) Establish committees or advisory groups composed of secondary and  
22 postsecondary faculty members to determine course comparability, to facilitate  
23 articulation in subject areas, and as otherwise deemed necessary to carry out  
24 the council's duties and responsibilities.

25 (7) Approve common degree program prerequisites across program  
26 areas and course and credit-by-exam equivalencies, and establish passing scores  
27 and course and credit equivalencies for exams administered pursuant to  
28 accelerated programs including, but not limited to, the Advanced Placement,  
29 International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Examination Program.

1                   (8) Develop policies to align articulation and transfer policies established  
2                   by educational institutions including, but not limited to, admissions criteria,  
3                   student guidance and counseling, and grade forgiveness.

4                   (9) Provide for end-of-course testing, if necessary and appropriate, for  
5                   any course the council has approved as eligible for transfer to a postsecondary  
6                   educational institution.

7                   (10) Establish monitoring, compliance, and reporting systems based  
8                   upon uniform data collection and reporting methods to facilitate and ensure  
9                   statewide and institutional compliance with statewide articulation and transfer  
10                  policies. Data collected shall include:

11                  (a) The number of students enrolled in associate degree transfer  
12                  programs.

13                  (b) Each student's rate of progress through transfer programs.

14                  (c) The number and percentage of students who complete associate  
15                  degree transfer programs.

16                  (d) The number of students earning associate degrees that transfer to  
17                  four-year colleges and universities.

18                  (e) The number of credits earned, degrees awarded, and time to  
19                  completion of degree for students who have previously transferred associate  
20                  degrees.

21                  (11) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between  
22                  transferring students and receiving educational institutions regarding the  
23                  transfer and acceptance of credits earned at another institution.

24                  (12) Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies and practices  
25                  approved by the council are compliant with the rules and regulations  
26                  established by all appropriate institutional accrediting agencies as recognized  
27                  by the United States Department of Education.

28                  (13) Periodically, but at least annually, review articulation and transfer  
29                  policies and make recommendations to the commissioner of higher education

1 who shall then make recommendations to the legislature for needed revisions.

2 (14) Perform such other duties as may be provided by law or the  
3 commissioner of higher education.

4 §3163. Statewide Articulation and Transfer Agreement

5 A. The Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and  
6 Secondary Education shall enter into a statewide articulation agreement that  
7 shall govern the articulation and transfer of credit between and among the  
8 state's public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions.

9 B. The statewide articulation agreement shall, at a minimum:

10 (1) Guarantee the transfer of general education courses and common  
11 degree program prerequisites.

12 (2) Guarantee that every graduate of a community college awarded an  
13 associate of arts or an associate of science degree approved by the council for  
14 transfer to a four-year postsecondary educational institution shall be deemed  
15 to have met all general education and other core curriculum requirements and  
16 must be granted admission to the upper division of any state public four-year  
17 college or university, in accordance with each institution's general transfer  
18 admission requirements, except to a limited access program or a program that  
19 has audition or other specialized admission requirements, as approved by the  
20 Board of Regents.

21 (3) Provide that graduates awarded an associate of arts or an associate  
22 of science degree approved by the council for transfer and who transfer to a  
23 four-year college or university shall not be required to take any additional  
24 general education courses to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements.

25 (4) Provide that graduates awarded an associate of arts or an associate  
26 of science degree approved by the council for transfer shall receive priority for  
27 admission to a state four-year college or university over out-of-state students.

28 (5) Guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate career and  
29 technical education programs and workforce development programs and

transfer of course credits between secondary schools and technical and community colleges.

(6) Provide for acceptance by postsecondary educational institutions of credits earned in accelerated programs such as dual enrollment and the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Examination programs.

(7) Guarantee the transfer of equivalent courses under the statewide course numbering system.

(8) Establish a common college transcript.

§3164. Common Course Numbering System

A.(1) In accordance with council policy, the Board of Regents shall develop, coordinate, and maintain a statewide course numbering system for postsecondary and dual enrollment education in all public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions as a means to facilitate program planning and the transfer of students and course credits between and among secondary and postsecondary educational institutions.

(2)(a) The development and ongoing maintenance of the statewide course numbering system, including determining course equivalencies, shall be accomplished with the assistance of appropriate committees that shall include faculty members representing public and participating nonpublic educational institutions.

(b) The development and implementation of the statewide course numbering system shall be prioritized as follows:

(i) All courses required for completion of associate of arts and associate of science degree programs approved by the council for transfer to four-year educational institutions. Common course numbers shall first be developed and assigned to the required general education courses, and then for the specified common course prerequisites.

(ii) All lower division courses.

1                    (iii) All undergraduate courses.

2                    B. (1)(a) The commissioner of higher education, in collaboration with  
3                    the higher education management boards, shall appoint faculty committees  
4                    representing all participating institutions to recommend the appropriate level  
5                    for each course, including postsecondary career and technical education  
6                    courses, included in the statewide course numbering system.

7                    (b) A course designated as an upper-division level course shall be  
8                    characterized by a need for advanced academic preparation and skills that a  
9                    student is unlikely to achieve without significant prior coursework.

10                  (c) A course that is designated as a lower-division level course may be  
11                  offered by any duly accredited community college.

12                  (2) The Board of Regents shall approve the course level designations for  
13                  all courses included in the statewide numbering system.

14                  (3) The statewide course numbering system shall include the courses at  
15                  the approved levels.

16                  C.(1) Courses that have the same academic content and are taught by  
17                  faculty with comparable credentials shall be considered equivalent courses and  
18                  shall be given the same course designation.

19                  (2) Equivalent courses shall be guaranteed to transfer to any educational  
20                  institution participating in the statewide course numbering system.

21                  D.(1) The Board of Regents shall provide that credits to be accepted by  
22                  a receiving institution are appropriately evaluated to ensure that the faculty  
23                  possess credentials that are comparable to those required by the accrediting  
24                  body of the receiving institution.

25                  (2) The award of credit by receiving institutions may be limited to  
26                  courses that are entered in the statewide course numbering system.

27                  E. The course catalog and registration process for each postsecondary  
28                  education institution shall include the courses at their designated levels and  
29                  statewide course number.

1           F.(1) Every public and nonpublic educational institution that participates  
2           in the statewide course numbering system shall be fully accredited by the  
3           appropriate education accrediting body.

4           (2) Each educational institution that awards associate of arts or associate  
5           of science degrees approved by the council for transfer to a four-year  
6           postsecondary educational institution and each four-year postsecondary  
7           educational institution that admits graduates of such associate degree programs  
8           shall be appropriately accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and  
9           Schools - Commission on Colleges.

10           G. Regionally accredited independent colleges and universities that are  
11           members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
12           are encouraged to participate in the statewide course numbering system.

13           §3165. Common core curriculum; general education courses; common  
14           prerequisites; other degree requirements

15           A. The Board of Regents, in collaboration with the postsecondary  
16           education management boards and institutions, shall:

17           (1) Identify the degree programs offered by public colleges and  
18           universities and the postsecondary career and technical education programs  
19           offered by community colleges, technical colleges, and city, parish, and other  
20           local school boards.

21           (2) The board shall identify those courses that meet general education  
22           requirements within each major area of study, which shall be identified by their  
23           statewide course number. All public postsecondary educational institutions shall  
24           accept such general education courses.

25           (3) The board shall identify all courses offered by colleges and  
26           universities and accepted for credit toward a degree and appropriately identify  
27           them in the statewide numbering system as either general education or required  
28           as a prerequisite for a degree.

29           (4)(a) The board shall identify common degree program prerequisite



1 courses and course substitutions for degree programs across all postsecondary  
2 education institutions. Common degree program prerequisites shall be offered  
3 and accepted by all postsecondary institutions, except in cases approved by the  
4 Board of Regents.

5 (b) The board shall develop a centralized database containing the list of  
6 courses and course substitutions that meet the prerequisite requirements for  
7 each postsecondary certificate, industry-based certification, and associate and  
8 baccalaureate degree program.

9 B. The postsecondary education management boards shall identify their  
10 core curricula. The public technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year  
11 colleges and universities shall work with the State Board of Elementary and  
12 Secondary Education and public schools and school districts to assure that high  
13 school curricula coordinate with the core curricula and to prepare students for  
14 postsecondary study.

15 C. The core curricula for associate in arts and associate in science  
16 degree programs approved by the council for transfer to four-year  
17 postsecondary educational institutions shall be approved and adopted by the  
18 Board of Regents.

19 D.(1) The Board of Regents shall monitor and regulate the number of  
20 credits required to complete each baccalaureate degree program and shall  
21 establish a standard number of credits required to complete associate degree  
22 programs approved by the council for transfer to a four-year postsecondary  
23 educational institution.

24 (2) A baccalaureate degree program shall not require more than the  
25 number of credits established by the board for degree completion without  
26 approval from the board.

27 (3) An associate in arts and an associate in science degree shall require  
28 no more than sixty semester hours of college credit, including thirty-nine hours  
29 of general education coursework and twenty-one hours of coursework that

1 constitute prerequisites for a baccalaureate degree.

2 E. The commissioner of higher education shall appoint faculty  
3 committees representing community and technical colleges and public high  
4 school faculties to recommend criteria, including a standard program length,  
5 for each postsecondary career certificate program, diploma, and degree offered  
6 by a technical college or a community college.

7 §3166. Student guidance and counseling

8 A. The Board of Regents shall develop and maintain a comprehensive,  
9 web-based system to provide information to students, advisers, and faculty  
10 regarding statewide articulation and transfer policies and requirements. This  
11 system shall include information relative to:

12 (1) The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council.

13 (2) The statewide articulation agreement.

14 (3) The statewide course numbering system.

15 (4) Articulation policies and rules.

16 (5) General education courses and common degree program  
17 prerequisites.

18 (6) Course and degree requirements for all fields of study.

19 (7) Planning and advising resources.

20 B. Each educational institution shall designate an existing staff or  
21 faculty member to serve as a transfer counselor to advise students and  
22 administer articulation and transfer functions and operations.

23 §3167. Implementation and funding

24 A. The Board of Regents shall appoint the members of the Statewide  
25 Articulation and Transfer Council not later than August 1, 2009.

26 B. The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council shall hold an  
27 organizational meeting not later than September 1, 2009.

28 C. The statewide articulation agreement shall be developed and adopted  
29 not later than March 1, 2010.

1                   D. All public postsecondary educational institutions shall be prepared  
2                   to and shall implement the full articulation and transfer of associate of arts and  
3                   associate of science degrees approved by the council for transfer to a four-year  
4                   postsecondary educational institution by the beginning of the 2010-2011  
5                   academic year.

6                   E.(1) The highest priority implementation category for the statewide  
7                   course numbering system, relative to the transfer of approved associate degrees,  
8                   shall be completed not later than the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year.

9                   (2) All remaining lower division and undergraduate courses shall then  
10                  be evaluated and incorporated into the system as provided in this Chapter and  
11                  the statewide course numbering system shall be completed and fully  
12                  implemented not later than the end of the 2011-2012 academic year.

13                  F. The Board of Regents shall ensure that sufficient funding is made  
14                  available to implement the provisions of this Chapter and may utilize state  
15                  appropriations, federal funds, funds made available through other sources, or  
16                  funds realized through realignment of other programs administered by the  
17                  board.

18                  §3168. Reporting

19                  Beginning in 2009, the Board of Regents shall submit a written report to  
20                  the Senate and House Committees on Education, not later than January thirty-  
21                  first and July thirty-first of each year, on the status of statewide articulation  
22                  and transfer of credit across all educational institutions in Louisiana as  
23                  provided in this Chapter.

24                  §3169. Rules

25                  The Board of Regents shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the  
26                  provisions of this Chapter in accordance with the Administrative Procedure  
27                  Act.

28                  Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
29                  signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 3 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

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#### DIGEST

Nevers (SB 285)

Proposed law provides for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credit between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions as follows:

Requires the postsecondary education management boards, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and city, parish, and other local school boards to jointly develop and implement articulation and transfer programs and agreements that facilitate and maximize the seamless transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions and that make the most efficient use of faculty, equipment, and facilities. Encourages regionally accredited independent colleges and universities that are members of the La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) to participate.

Creates the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council, appointed by the commissioner of higher education in consultation with the BESE and the higher education management boards, which shall have the following powers, duties, and responsibilities:

- (1) Coordinate, oversee, and monitor the seamless articulation and transfer of credit between and among secondary schools, technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities.
- (2) Monitor the development of interinstitutional agreements between and among public schools, technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities to facilitate interaction, articulation, acceleration, and the efficient use of faculty, equipment, and facilities.
- (3) Develop a statewide articulation and transfer agreement to govern the transfer of credits between and among educational institutions at all levels.
- (4) Oversee the development of a statewide core curriculum for lower-division course work that will be fully accepted in its entirety and creditable to the baccalaureate degree by all four-year colleges and universities. Such curriculum shall be comprised of specified general education courses and common degree program prerequisites.
- (5) Oversee the development, implementation, and maintenance of a statewide course numbering system.
- (6) Establish committees or advisory groups composed of secondary and postsecondary faculty members to determine course comparability, facilitate articulation in subject areas, and as otherwise necessary to carry out the council's duties and responsibilities.
- (7) Approve common degree program prerequisites across program areas and course and credit-by-exam equivalencies, and establish passing scores and course and credit equivalencies for exams administered pursuant to accelerated programs including the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Examination Program.
- (8) Develop policies to align articulation and transfer policies established by educational institutions, including admissions criteria, student guidance and counseling, and grade forgiveness.
- (9) Provide for end-of-course testing, if necessary and appropriate.
- (10) Establish monitoring, compliance, and reporting systems based upon uniform data collection and reporting methods to facilitate and ensure statewide and institutional

- compliance with statewide articulation policies. Data collected shall include:
- (a) The number of students enrolled in associate degree transfer programs.
  - (b) Each student's rate of progress through transfer programs.
  - (c) The number and percentage of students who complete associate degree transfer programs.
  - (d) The number of students earning associate degrees that transfer to four-year colleges and universities.
  - (e) The number of credits earned, degrees awarded, and time to completion of degree for students who have previously transferred associate degrees.
- (11) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between transferring students and receiving educational institutions regarding the transfer and acceptance of credits earned at another institution.
  - (12) Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies and practices approved by the council comply with the rules and regulations of all appropriate accrediting bodies as recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education.
  - (13) Periodically, but at least annually, review articulation and transfer policies and make recommendations to the commissioner of higher education who shall then make recommendations to the legislature for needed revisions.
  - (14) Perform such other duties as may be provided by law or the commissioner of higher education.

Provides that the council membership shall provide for equitable representation of all educational systems and levels.

Requires the Board of Regents(BoR) and BESE to enter into a statewide articulation agreement that shall govern the articulation and transfer of credit between and among the state's public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions that shall, at a minimum:

- (1) Guarantee the transfer of general education courses and common degree program prerequisites.
- (2) Guarantee that every graduate of a community college awarded an associate of arts or an associate of science degree approved by the council for transfer to a 4-year postsecondary educational institution shall be deemed to have met all general education and other core curriculum requirements and must be granted admission to the upper division of at least one state public four-year college or university, in accordance with each institution's general transfer requirements, except to a limited access program or a program that has audition or other specialized admission requirements, as approved by the Board of Regents.
- (3) Provide that graduates of council approved associate degree programs who transfer to a four-year college or university shall not be required to take any additional general education courses to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements.
- (4) Provide that graduates of council approved associate degree programs shall receive priority for admission to a state four-year college or university over out-of-state students.
- (5) Guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate career and technical education programs and workforce development programs and transfer of course credits between secondary schools and technical and community colleges.
- (6) Provide for acceptance by postsecondary educational institutions of credits earned in accelerated programs such as dual enrollment and the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Examination programs.
- (7) Guarantee the transfer of equivalent courses under the statewide course numbering system.
- (8) Establish a common college transcript.

Requires the BoR, in accordance with council policy and with the utilization of appropriate faculty committees, to develop, coordinate, and maintain a statewide common course numbering system for postsecondary and dual enrollment education in all public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions as a means to facilitate program planning and the transfer of students and course credits.

Provides for prioritized, phased-in development and implementation of the statewide common course numbering system as follows:

- (1) All courses required for completion of council approved transfer associated degree programs. Requires that common course numbers be developed for general education courses first and then for common course prerequisites.
- (2) All lower division courses.
- (3) All undergraduate courses.

Requires the commissioner of higher education, in collaboration with the higher education management boards, to appoint faculty committees representative of all participating institutions to recommend the appropriate level for each course, including postsecondary career and technical education courses, included in the system. Additionally provides that:

- (1) A course designated as an upper-division level course must be characterized by a need for advanced academic preparation and skills that a student is unlikely to achieve without significant prior coursework.
- (2) A course that is designated as a lower-division level course may be offered by any community college.
- (3) The BoR shall approve the course level designations for all courses included in the statewide numbering system.
- (4) The statewide course numbering system shall include the courses at the approved levels.
- (5) Courses that have the same academic content and are taught by faculty with comparable credentials shall be considered equivalent courses and shall be given the same course designation.
- (6) Equivalent courses shall be guaranteed to transfer to any educational institution participating in the statewide course numbering system.
- (7) The BoR shall provide that credits to be accepted by a receiving institution are appropriately evaluated to ensure that the faculty possess credentials that are comparable to those required by the accrediting body of the receiving institution.
- (8) Provides that the award of credit by receiving institutions may be limited to courses that are entered in the statewide course numbering system.
- (9) The course catalog and registration process for each postsecondary education institution shall include the courses at their designated levels and statewide course number.
- (10) Every public and nonpublic educational institution that participates in the statewide course numbering system must be fully accredited by the appropriate education accrediting body.
- (11) Each educational institution that awards council approved transfer associate degrees and each 4-year institution that admits graduates from such programs must be accredited by the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools-Commission on Colleges.
- (12) Encourages regionally accredited independent colleges and universities that are members of LAICU to participate in the statewide course numbering system.

Requires the Board of Regents, in collaboration with the postsecondary education management boards, to:

- (1) Identify the degree programs offered by public colleges and universities and the postsecondary career and technical education programs offered by community colleges, technical colleges, and city, parish, and other local school boards.
- (2) Identify those courses that meet general education requirements within each major area of study, which shall be identified by their statewide course number. Provides that all public postsecondary educational institutions shall accept such general education courses.
- (3) Identify all courses offered by colleges and universities and accepted for credit toward a degree and appropriately identify them in the statewide numbering system as either general education or required as a prerequisite for a degree.
- (4) Identify common degree program prerequisite courses and course substitutions for degree programs across all postsecondary education institutions. Provides that

- common degree program prerequisites shall be offered and accepted by all postsecondary institutions, except in cases approved by the Board of Regents.
- (5) Develop a centralized database containing the list of courses and course substitutions that meet the prerequisite requirements for each postsecondary certificate, industry-based certification, and associate and baccalaureate degree program.

Requires the postsecondary education management boards to identify their core curricula. Further requires public technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities to work with BESE and public schools and school districts to assure that high school curricula coordinate with the core curricula and to prepare students for college-level work.

Provides that the core curricula for associate in arts and associate in science degree programs approved by the council for transfer to a 4-year postsecondary educational institution shall be approved and adopted by the BoR.

Requires the BoR to monitor and regulate the standard number of credits required to complete each baccalaureate degree program and to establish a standard number of credits required to complete council approved associate degree programs for transfer to a four-year postsecondary educational institution.

Provides that baccalaureate degree programs shall not require more than the number of credits established by the board for degree completion without approval from the board.

Provides that associate in arts and an associate in science degrees shall require no more than 60 semester hours of college credit, including 39 hours of general education coursework and 21 hours of coursework that constitute prerequisites for a baccalaureate degree.

Requires the commissioner of higher education to appoint faculty committees representing community and technical colleges and public high school faculties to recommend criteria, including a standard program length, for each postsecondary career certificate program, diploma, and degree offered by a technical college or a community college.

Requires the BoR to develop and maintain a comprehensive web-based system to provide information to students, advisers, and faculty regarding statewide articulation. Provides that the system include information relative to:

- (1) The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council.
- (2) The statewide articulation agreement.
- (3) The statewide course numbering system.
- (4) Articulation policies and rules.
- (5) General education courses and common degree program prerequisites.
- (6) Course and degree requirements for all fields of study.
- (7) Planning and advising resources.

Requires each educational institution to designate an existing staff or faculty member to serve as a transfer counselor to advise students and administer articulation and transfer functions and operations.

Provides for implementation timelines as follows:

- (1) The Board of Regents shall appoint the members of the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council not later than August 1, 2009.
- (2) The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council shall hold an organizational meeting not later than September 1, 2009.
- (3) The statewide articulation agreement shall be developed and adopted not later than March 1, 2010.
- (4) All public postsecondary educational institutions shall be prepared to and shall implement the full articulation and transfer of council approved transfer associate of arts and associate of science degrees by the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic

- year.
- (5) The courses required for completion of council approved transfer associate of arts and associate of science degrees must be entered into the statewide course numbering system by the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year.
  - (6) All remaining lower division and undergraduate courses shall be evaluated and incorporated into the statewide numbering system not later than the end of the 2011-2012 academic year.

Requires the Board of Regents to ensure that sufficient funding is made available to implement the provisions of proposed law and authorizes the board to utilize state appropriations, federal funds, funds made available through other sources, or funds realized through realignment of other programs administered by the board.

Requires the Board of Regents, beginning in 2009, to submit a written report to the Senate and House education committees not later than January 31<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year on the status of statewide articulation and transfer of credit across all educational institutions in Louisiana as required by proposed law.

Requires the Board of Regents to adopt rules and regulations to implement proposed law in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds: R.S. 17:3161 - 3169)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Clarifies that faculty from all affected educational institutions are consulted and have input into the decisions and actions of the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council.
2. Provides for representation from nonpublic educational institutions on the council should a nonpublic institution choose to participate in the statewide articulation and transfer agreement and/or the statewide course numbering system.
3. Clarifies that the associate of arts and associate of science degrees eligible for transfer to a 4-year college or university must be approved by the council and the Board of Regents.
4. Requires the council to develop policies to align the articulation and transfer policies established by educational institutions.
5. Provides for end-of-course testing to validate course credits if deemed appropriate and necessary by the council.
6. Requires the council to ensure that all articulation and transfer policies and practices approved by the council comply with the rules and regulations of the appropriate accrediting body.
7. Provides that the transfer requirements for transfer associate degree graduates must be the same as general transfer requirements established by a postsecondary educational institution for all transfer students.
8. Provides for phased-in implementation of the statewide common course



numbering system with corresponding timelines.

9. Requires institutions that award transfer associate degrees and four-year institutions that admit transfer associate degree program graduates must be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - Commission on Colleges.
10. Changes the number of general education courses required for core curriculum from 36 to 39 to match current Board of Regents requirements.
11. Requires all public postsecondary educational institutions to be prepared and to implement full articulation and transfer of council approved associate of arts and associate of science degrees by the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year.